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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Jan. 26th—Feb. 1st, 1984
Volume 19, Number 4

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	2:10	2:30	3:05	3:25	2:50	3:15	3:55	4:35	6:20	6:55	5:40	6:15	2:05	2:35	1/26
FRI.	3:10	3:35	4:10	4:35	3:50	4:20	5:00	5:35	7:25	8:00	6:40	7:20	3:05	3:35	1/27
SAT.	4:15	4:40	5:15	5:35	4:55	5:20	5:55	6:35	8:20	8:55	7:40	8:15	4:05	4:30	1/28
SUN.	5:10	5:35	6:10	6:30	5:50	6:15	6:50	7:25	9:15	9:50	8:35	9:10	5:00	5:20	1/29
MON.	6:00	6:20	6:55	7:15	6:40	7:05	7:35	8:05	10:05	10:35	9:25	9:55	5:50	6:10	1/30
TUES.	6:40	7:05	7:40	8:00	7:25	7:50	8:15	8:45	10:50	11:15	10:10	10:40	6:30	6:50	1/31
WED.	7:20	7:45	8:15	8:35	8:05	8:30	8:55	9:25	11:30	11:55	10:50	11:15	7:15	7:35	2/1
THURS.	8:00	8:20	8:55	9:10	8:45	9:10	9:30	10:00	12:03	—	11:30	11:50	7:55	8:15	2/2

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	1/26	7:19	5:06
FRI.	1/27	7:19	5:08
SAT.	1/28	7:18	5:09
SUN.	1/29	7:17	5:10
MON.	1/30	7:16	5:11
TUE.	1/31	7:15	5:12
WED.	2/1	7:14	5:13

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	1/26	1:40AM	12:03PM
FRI.	1/27	2:47AM	12:37PM
SAT.	1/28	3:52AM	1:17PM
SUN.	1/29	4:53AM	2:03PM
MON.	1/30	5:48AM	2:55PM
TUE.	1/31	6:36AM	3:51PM
WED.	2/1	6:56AM	10:01PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
2/1	2/10	2/17	2/23

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	11:55	5:45	—	6:10
Fri.	12:25	6:30	12:40	6:55
Sat.	1:10	7:15	1:25	7:40
Sun.	1:55	8:05	2:15	8:30
Mon.	2:45	8:55	3:05	9:20
Tues.	3:35	9:40	3:50	10:05
Wed.	4:20	10:25	4:35	10:50
Thurs.	5:05	11:15	5:25	11:40

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Brian Harris of Brooklyn gets a hand displaying some of the loot he gathered during a $250.00 shopping spree at Merrick Tackle in Bellmore. Brian was the Grand Prize Winner of The Fisherman's Bumper Sticker Contest. He also received a rod and reel outfit as part of his prize.

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Ronnie sez

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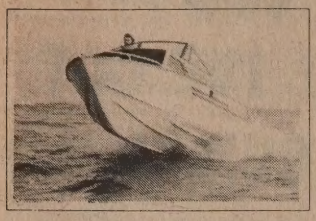

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PASS IT ON...

ATTENTION BOATERS!!

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-6 is offering a Public Education Course in Boating Safety and Seamanship.

The course will cover boating safety and legal requirements, rules of the road, aids to navigation, piloting, marine engines, marlinspike seamanship and radiotelephone. The course is free of charge to all interested boaters, with a nominal charge for materials.

The course will be given on Monday evenings at 8PM in Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, starting on January 30, 1984. New students will be accepted until February 27, 1984.

For further information, call (516) 623-0403 or (516) 379-5424.

FLOTILLA 13-10 OFFERING FREE BOATING COURSE

Beginning Monday, January 30th, Flotilla 13-10 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a free Safe Boating Course at the Sylvia Packard Jr. High School in the Plainedge School District. The course will be given for eight consecutive Monday evenings from 8 to 10 PM.

This very informative course is the most extensive offered by the Auxiliary. Interesting and practical topics, such as boat handling, rules of the road, aids to navigation, charts and compass, piloting, weather, radiotelephone and marine engines will be covered.

All registrants who successfully complete the course will receive an official certificate issued by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The certificate is honored by most insurance companies for a discount on boat insurance.

For further information, please call Bea Cooper at (516) 221-3996 after 8PM.

FLOTILLA 11-5 BOATING SKILLS AND SAFETY COURSE

Flotilla 11-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will once again render their famous public education boating skills and safety course, starting on February 7th, at 8PM, at the Diamond Point Yacht Club, 1350 Paerdegat Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

This is the longest and most practical 16-lesson course given by the Auxiliary. Eleven lessons take the student from boat handling through radio communication. The last 5 lessons are devoted to the physical aspect; actual plotting of courses on nautical charts. Each lesson is of 2-hours duration. A nominal fee will be charged for the abundance of materials which will be supplied to each student wishing same. Remember, the course is Free and those students wishing to partake in the lecture sessions only, need not pay the fee.

At the conclusion of the class, all graduating students will be given a beautiful certificate, which is supplied by the U.S. Coast Guard. For more info, call Harry Frankel, any business day 9:30 to 4:30, at (212) 868-8853 or write to him at 2069 85th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214.

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE: FLOTILLA 1-5, BAY SHORE

There may be ice on the Great South Bay, but before you know it spring will be here and you may be looking forward to using that new boat you bought this winter. When you go out, do you know how to keep from: Getting lost? Going aground on a sand bar? Blowing yourself to pieces when gassing up? Or is your boat legally equipped so that when it is boarded by the Coast Guard or the police you will not be fined? How do you use your radiotelephone to summon aid? Can you tell when the weather is too bad for safe boating?

If you are puzzled by any of these questions, you need some education in boating. Now is the time to obtain it. When the weather becomes better, it will be too late. The classes which start now are not given in the summer.

The Bay Shore Flotilla, 1-5, of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the highly acclaimed Boating Skills and Seamanship Course at the Bay Shore Junior High School on Brook Avenue near the South Shore Mall. Its classes meet every Tuesday evening, starting at 7:30 PM and running until 9:30 PM. You may register at the first session on Tuesday, January 31st. There will be 11 sessions. There is no charge except for the coast of the textbook and materials. Family members can share a textbook.

While no prior registration is necessary, information may be obtained from Judi Cestaro, 666-5351.

NEW LOCATION FOR MORTY THE KNIFE MAN

Morty the Knife Man, has moved from his cozy, but very cramped location on Woodcleft Canal, Freeport, to a new, much larger building located at 342 Guy Lombardo Ave., Freeport, behind Mister Marine, at the corner of Guy Lombardo & Atlantic Avenues. (Behind the presently closed gas station.)

Morty has much more merchandise on display than before; for example, knives of every description, sharpening equipment, culinary items and much more. This new store is over four times larger than the previous shop. There's loads of free parking and to introduce you to his new location, Morty invites you to drop in and receive a free knife sharpener on the house.

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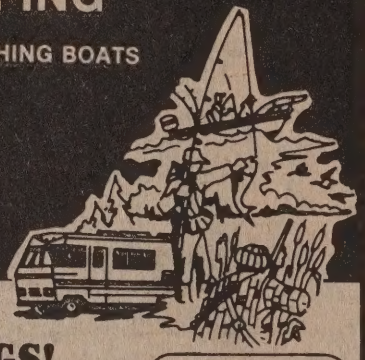
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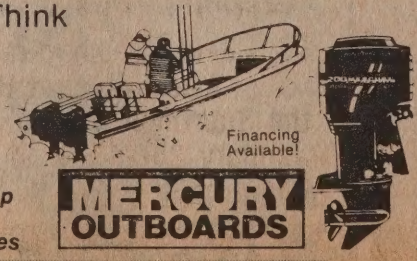

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CHUM LINES

HOW DOES NEW BASS LAW HELP ME?

I am writing this letter to you in hopes that you fill me in on how the new striped bass legislation is going to *help* me and people like me. I am obviously opposed to the new law.

I started fishing ten years ago and have been actively pursuing striped bass in my area all this time. I troll worms at night in the western part of Long Island Sound, out of Hempstead Harbor. Every night the winds are calm, I fish, from mid-May through November and during the day I fish everyday off from work from September into December. I don't eat fish, so I sell what I catch, which I know sticks in the craw of some sport fishermen. Most of these people, however, don't realize the amount of work and time that goes into the catching of bass. The only see the money. They don't take into consideration the long hours spent fishing in the middle of the night, or fishing in the cold nights of October and the beginning of November or fishing in an open skiff in the pouring rain, or going to the beach and spending an hour or two digging sandworms in the 85 to 90 degree heat of July and August and they don't realize the amount of nights that three hours of sleep becomes the norm. We don't fish this way for the money, we do it because we love this sport and we especially love fishing for striped bass. The money doesn't come close to matching the work involved or the time spent.

As I said in the beginning of this letter, I'm a worm troller in the western Sound. We are currently enjoying an excellent bass season and the past few seasons have been very good to excellent, for those who *actively* pursue it. Sure, we catch fish that are over 24 inches, but being in the western Sound 70 percent or more of our fish are between 16 and 24 inches. With this new law, it will be hardly worth the effort for us to even try to catch bass. Besides the throwbacks we've always gotten, we're now going to be putting back into the water an additional 70 percent of what we catch. Why couldn't you folks, who actively sought this law, have at least proposed a catch limit of three or four bass under 24 inches to help us out in the western Sound? You mentioned in one of your Editorials that we in the western Sound would have to give something up for the good of the species. That's fine, but what about the fishermen in the other parts of Long Island—what did they give up for the good of the species? It is my understanding that a large

female bass has a tremendous amount of eggs more than a smaller one. Why then did you not seek a catch limit on fish over 20 pounds? Another question I have is who is going to enforce this law? In ten years on the Sound I have yet to see a Conservation Officer or Game Warden. A store won't buy an undersize fish, so that should be enough to keep a guy who sells his fish honest. But what about the fisherman who eats his catch. I have seen quite a few people trying to "stretch a short" under the old law. Do you think that all of a sudden they'll throw back a five pound fish, and if they don't, who's to stop them? As I said, I haven't seen a Conservation Officer at night in ten years.

In closing, I wish to ask once again what positive effect this new law will have for us in the western Sound? How many years will it take before we will be able to go out and keep 70 percent of what we catch, like we can do right now. It baffles me how a law which seems to be unenforceable in many ways, is biologically unsound and is unfair to us in the western Sound, can be the great saviour of the striped bass.

Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to read this letter, and I anxiously await your reply. *Peter D. Bailey, Sea Cliff, NY*

I'm reminded of a famous speech made by President John F. Kennedy. He said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." The meaning of this quote is obvious and so is its implications. We should strive not to see programs and changes only in the light of how they will benefit us, but also in terms of the species we share the planet with and their habitats. It is a corollary that if we are altruistic in our efforts to help species and habitats, that ultimately much and varied benefits will come to each of us. It is also true that when there is a crisis that some will be inconvenienced and some sacrifices will have to be made, but these sacrifices are only in the short term and must be endured in order to reap the long range benefits.

Whether or not you sell fish is not the issue in the question you raise. What is central to the discussion is what we must do to protect the species which has been in precipitous decline for a decade. Should we fail to take conservation measures and make an effort to manage this resource, the future for the species, for those who catch them for sale, for those who seek them purely for fun, and for those who wish to eat the fish will be in real jeopardy. The species is in such serious trouble that a three or four catch exclusion is simply not in the cards. We understand the expenses that accrue to fishing, yet all those who pursue sports in leisure are confronted with expenses. In short, we have to pay for our fun. We have encouraged sport fishermen to release all the fish they catch except the ones they eat: the expense of the

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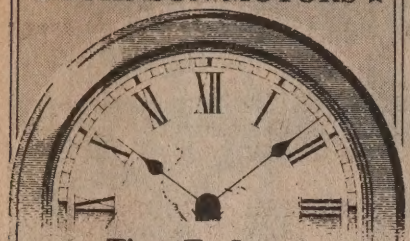

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green fees, the expense of the price per bowling game, the expense of the ski lift, or the expense of tackle—it makes no difference since it comes with the territory and there is no good reason why the fish should suffer for the expenses we run up while pursuing our hobby. Fortunately, most people are honest and will respect the law since laws are passed for honest people. The dishonest will violate the law regardless of how it is written. What the dishonest fail to realize is that in violating the law they also violate themselves and the rest of us, too. One has to be primarily concerned with one's own adherence to the law. Conserving larger fish was given serious consideration, yet some scientific studies have suggested strongly that older, larger fish may not be the main breeders. In addition, there is concern for reducing mortality on smaller fish so that in the years ahead there will be a sufficiently large breeding stock to allow the opportunity for large successful spawnings. Clearly, if we leave all the big ones in the sea and take all the little ones, the day will come when the old ones die and there are no little ones to grow up to be big ones. Striped bass is not the abundant resource that some other species are and never was. It has a restricted habitat both in length and width. Because it spawns in freshwater, there is added reason for concern since it becomes concentrated in these rivers and also vulnerable to pollution. The concept behind sound management is to reduce mortality and structure a conservation of stocks that will provide an opportunity for successful spawning to replenish the stocks. Think of it this way: if you join in the spirit of this effort, you may see the day when you'll fish with your grandchildren and catch so many bass that you'll have to stop and tell the youngsters that it wasn't always this way. Dr. W.A. Muller.

KIND WORDS FOR LIF

My father and I have been avid readers of The Fisherman since its inception. Even though I reside in Florida now, I still enjoy receiving each issue. This is my first time writing in all these years. I'm wondering why have you discontinued the very interesting and informative section *Chum Lines*? I am pleased with the professionalism and growth of your magazine. I understand space may be a problem, but I miss some of the "special features" by you, "Doc" Grell and many other "pros." I hope you don't misunderstand; I am a happy subscriber. I have gotten my money's worth and then some. Also, I applaud your work in conservation. Keep up the fine work, and thank you. *Steven D. Sternberg.*

As you can readily see from this response and many others that regularly appear in the publication, Chum Lines *is still very much with us. We do omit this feature from time to time for a variety of reasons and space is one of them, but* Chum Lines *appears in more weeks than not. Special features also continue, but not every week. We have travel specials, field test reports, boat show specials, how-to specials, where-to specials, and so on.*

On conservation, we're pleased that you appreciate the importance of our ongoing efforts in this department. Conservation, as we're sure you can appreciate, is the vital job of everyone. Sometimes we get apathetic, and sometimes we get lazy, and sometimes we just don't understand why it's important. However, proper conservation measures benefits not only the fisheries but people as well. Dr. W.A. Muller.

GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND WRITES LIF

Dear Doctor Muller:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning striped bass management. I want you to know that I share your very deep concern about the depletion of striped bass stocks and the continued survival of the striped bass as a healthy and vital resource. As you may know, the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council has prohibited the taking of striped bass effective January 1, 1984.

Please be assured that I will continue to work with the State Marine Fisheries Council to develop a long-term management solution so that Rhode Island does its part to preserve the striped bass as a great fisheries resource. Sincerely, *J. Joseph Garrahy, Governor.*

SEALS ROAMING LONG ISLAND SOUND?

While trolling for bass along the shoreline at Saddle Rock last night, we (my wife and I) saw a seal perched on a small dock—we weren't drinking and it was plenty light—about 7:45 PM.

When we got about 50 feet from the dock, the seal jumped into the water and took off in the direction of Nichols Pier in Bayside.

I wonder if you have any other reports of seal sightings and do you think this has anything to do with the scarcity of bluefish in the west this season?

I'd be interested in hearing your comments. *Dick Mansfield, Flushing, New York.*

It isn't unusual for seals to appear in Long Island waters. What may be considered a bit unusual is to see one in July and August. There are two reasons for this. First, seals prefer colder water. Therefore, we see them typically in the winter, spring and fall. Most often seals are spotted in March and April by flounder fishermen.

Warm water in summer plus heavy boat traffic usually keeps the seals away in summer, but it's always possible for seal, whale, or even porpoise to find its way into the Sound or one of the bays. We believe you—you weren't drinking. Dr. W.A. Muller.

NEW YORK STATE SALT WATER RECORD PROGRAM

Anglers landing a fish of record proportions may submit their entry on an official Fisherman Contest weigh slip, available at any Official Fisherman Weigh Station. Simply check the box designating state record consideration, fill in all of the requested information and send the slip, along with a photo of yourself and the fish to: The Fisherman, Post Office Box 1994, Bridge Street, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. If a Fisherman Contest Slip is not available, then a club, marina or tackle shop weigh slip will suffice. In either case, the slip must be witnessed and signed by an official weighmaster. Those qualifying as state record holders will receive a handsome certificate in recognition of their accomplishment. State record information is available from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation office in Stony Brook (516-751-7900) or from The Fisherman (516-725-4200).

Species:	Weight:	Angler:	Date Caught:	Location:
Albacore (Longfin)	59 lbs. 8 oz.	Eileen Merten	Aug. 14, 1971	Shinnecock
Black Sea Bass	9 lbs. 0 oz.	Sal Vicari	Oct. 10, 1983	Montauk
Blackfish	15 lbs. 5 oz.	Vincent Sombrotto	May 18, 1983	Peconic Bay
Bluefish	24 lbs. 8 oz.	Erin McDonnel Brown	Sept. 29, 1979	L.I. Sound
Cod	76 lbs. 0 oz.	Louis Schobel	Jan. 28, 1981	N.Y. Bight
Flounder (Winter)	5 lbs. 2 oz.	Thomas McCabe	June 27, 1983	Montauk
Fluke	22 lbs. 7 oz.	Charles Nappi	Sept. 15, 1975	Montauk
Marlin (Blue)	940 lbs. 0 oz.	Skip Lowell	Aug. 4, 1981	Montauk
Marlin (White)	130 lbs. 0 oz.	Mrs. P. Dater	Aug. 13, 1951	Montauk
Pollock		40 pound minimum		
Porgy (Scup)	6 lbs. 4 oz.	Samuel Warren	1978	Montauk
Shark (Blue)	393 lbs. 0 oz.	Roy Carpenter	Sept. 8, 1979	Montauk
Shark (Mako)	1080 lbs. 0 oz.	James Melanson	Aug. 26, 1979	Montauk
Shark (Tiger)	1047 lbs. 0 oz.	Bob Jessen	July 16, 1983	Fire Island
Shark (White)	1450 lbs. 0 oz.	Richard Pastorelli	July 24, 1965	Montauk
Striped Bass	76 lbs. 0 oz.	Bob Rocchetta	July 17, 1981	Montauk
Swordfish	492 lbs. 4 oz.	Dorothea Cassullo	July 4, 1959	Montauk
Tuna (Bigeye)	335 lbs. 0 oz.	Richard Buechmann	Sept. 27, 1981	Fire Island
Tuna (Bluefin)	1071 lbs. 0 oz.	Larry Thompson	Aug. 21, 1977	Montauk
Tuna (Yellowfin)	223 lbs. 0 oz.	Bob Jessen	July 31, 1983	Fire Island
Weakfish	17 lbs. 14 oz.	William Herold	May 31, 1980	L.I. Sound

DEEP JIGGING ROD

by Dave Arbeitman & Grant Toman

No single fishing rod can be all things to all people. However, for the year-round inshore fisherman, our conventional deep jigging rod comes very close. We recommend this rod for mackerel, bluefish, weakfish and striped bass jigging as well as ling and whiting fishing. One thing to keep in mind is—jigging is, as jigging does. In other words, you do whatever it takes to make the fish hit. And a well thought out and properly constructed rod makes that job easier.

The blank we have chosen is a J. Kennedy Fisher model 950. This is a hollow fiberglass blank, eight feet in length. This blank is especially well suited for jigging because of its very fast taper. This fast taper allows the rod to do the bulk of the work involved in jigging, rather than the angler's arms. The same does not hold true when using a parabolic blank; your arms work harder than the rod does. The proper blank will pay off in the end with more fish and less tired bodies.

A good jigging rod will handle a range of jig weights.

We start off by tip cutting the blank approximately 4½ inches to a #10 tube size. By tip cutting the blank, it has been made slightly stiffer. This added little bit of stiffness allows the rod to effectively handle jigs between three and eight ounces. This enables you to fish three ounce jigs on the inshore grounds in the morning and fish six and eight ounce jigs in the deep in the afternoon with the same rod. One further note concerning tip cutting a blank: if the power is not in the blank to begin with, then tip cutting it will do nothing but shorten the blank.

Selecting the rest of the components for your rod is just as important as choosing the blank. Our first choice in a reel seat for this rod is the Aftco ARS2M. This is an aluminum machined hood reel seat. It is both lightweight and strong. It also has several advantages over the other reel seats on the market today. Its biggest advantage is that a machined hood reel seat tends to hold a reel more securely than a stamped hood seat. This better fit will eliminate the twisting of the reel back and forth, as often happens in stamped hood seats. For those with a color preference, the Aftco aluminum seats come three ways—all silver, all black and black with gold hoods and locking nuts. The aluminum has been anodized to withstand the destructiveness of saltwater.

We recommend the use of Veltex as the primary grip material. It is a synthetic neoprene grip that is very light and durable. It is firm, but at the same time it is very easy on your hands. Veltex does not develop a "skin" after a year or so like some of the other synethetic grips do. It is the type of grip that you can hold onto without having to worry about it slipping through your fingers. This is especially important if you fish during the colder weather when you often have to wear gloves.

The lengths of your grips should be tailored around what is most comfortable for you. With regards to the rear grip, most anglers seem to prefer a 10 to 12 inch rear grip in addition to a butt cap or gimbal. This length makes the rod easy to handle and easy to lift fish over the rail (on a party boat or charter boat). Too long a rear grip only seems to get in the way; while

too short a rear grip throws the rest of the rod off balance. When it comes to deciding upon the length of your foregrip, we suggest that the angler stop and think about the reason for the foregrip. It is there to help you handle the fish. We like to use an 8 to 10 inch foregrip because a short foregrip doesn't have the extra length for better leverage necessary for pumping and lifting a big fish. To complete the butt section, finish it off with either a PVC butt cap or a nylon gimbal. Each has its place. If you fish on a boat with rod holders that are pinned on the bottom, then a nylon gimbal will prevent your rod from turning in the holder. If rod holders are not a main concern, then use a PVC butt cap. They are light and durable. They also come in several colors, so they can be matched to your guide wraps.

Now that your butt section is complete, you must deal with guide selection. This can be tough because there are many fine choices to pick from. For this particular rod, we recommend the Fuji BNHG guides with aluminum oxide rings, a nylon shock ring, and feature a one-piece stainless steel frame which is parkerized black. There are several other fine guides that can be used, and you'll find a brief description of them as well as alternate selections of the other components in the option box.

This rod requires six guides plus a tiptop. The top is a Fuji BPHT #10-10. That is a #10 ring and a #10 tube size. The guides are as follows: 1-#10, 2-#12, 1-#16, 1-#20 and 1-#25. When measuring the guide spacing, always measure from the center of each ring to the center of the next. The guide spacing from the tip down is as follows: 4-5/8, 5-3/8, 6½, 8, 11 and 14¾.

Well, that's about it. Now it is up to you to put these components together and come up with a beautifully completed custom rod with both versatility and performance.

★OPTIONS★

ALTERNATE BLANKS

Dynaflex 0705, fiberglass • Dynaflex 2084, fiberglass;
Loomis GBT702, graphite • Fisher X2084, graphite

ALTERNATE REEL SEATS

Fuji FPS-22 • Varmac NF-3 • Varmac LW-2X

ALTERNATE GRIP MATERIAL

Cork • Mouseskin • Hypalon

ALTERNATE GUIDES

Fuji DSG Silicon Carbide • Fuji BSVLG Hardloy
Fuji SVSG Silicon Carbide
Mildrum SSE Stainless Steel • Mildrum ME Carboloy

If you are planning to build a jigging rod using an alternate blank, remember that the guide spacing provided here is for the Fisher 950. Because each blank is different with regards to action, taper, and length, guide spacings are not exactly interchangeable. If you have questions, stop in at your local rod building shop.

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ON THE MARKET:

BAITCASTING REELS FOR '84

by Al Ristori

Anglers contemplating the purchase of a new baitcasting reel have a wide array of finely crafted products to choose from.

Taking a look at what's new in the baitcasting field, it seems DAIWA may have the most expensive new entry in the Procaster Tournament PTA 33 Magforce. This magnetic control model was built for tournament bass fishing and features a one-piece graphite frame, three stainless steel ball bearings, an Autocast thumbar, gears made from nitrided molybdenum steel, and a super-fast 5.36:1 gear ratio. The Zero-Friction line guide parts when you cast to eliminate friction, a direct drive switch is incorporated, and the machined aluminum alloy spool is gold-anodized. The PTA 33 takes 175 yards of 10 pound but weighs only 8.8 ounces.

At more modest prices, DAIWA has added nine models of Procaster Magforce reels to bring that series up to 12 in all. These reels feature the magnetic control, disengaging level wind, aluminum oxide line guide, and fast right side take-down. Saltwater anglers finally get a big magnetic model in the PMF 57H (270 yards of 20 lb.) which will provide the Ambassadeur 7000 with competition. Other Procaster Magforce models have such features as Autocast, graphite frames and sealed stainless steel ball bearing. Three new models are added to the Procaster Standard series of eight reels without the magnetic control and some other features. The new PSA 33 (130 yards of 12 lb.) and PSA 35 (200 yards of 12 lb.) have the Autocast feature and 5.36:1 gear ratios, while the new PS 57 has the same large capacity as the magnetic PMF 57H.

ABU-GARCIA quickly responded to Daiwa's magnetic challenge, and has also gone along with the low profile trend. There are two series of magnetics at different price levels. The five model Ultra Mag line includes three new models. The standard features for this series include stainless steel ball bearings, Magtrax magnetic braking system, self-centering level wind, brass gears, 4.7:1 gear ratio, and 10-year warranty. Topping this line is the Ultra Mag XL Plus, a narrow spool (150 yards of 12 lb.) ThumBar reel with a flipping feature which engages the spool instantly when the thumb is released from the bar—and a bayonet-lock

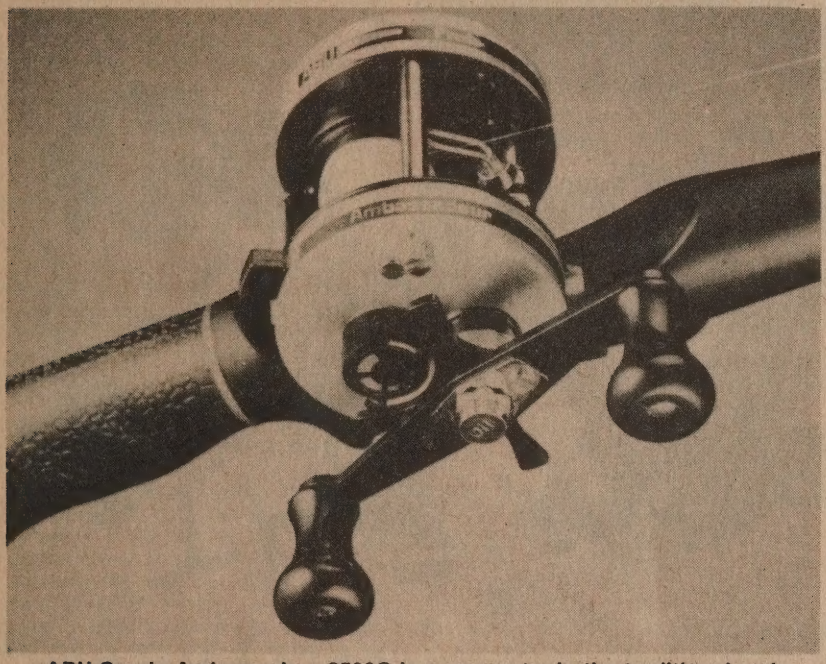
Daiwa Procaster MagForce series includes some Autocast models.

ABU-Garcia Ambassadeur 1000 is an inexpensive low profile model.

quick-change spool. Reel weight is nine ounces and retail prices will probably run well over $60. Also new are the Ultra Mag XL I (narrow spool) and Ultra Mag XL II (standard spool; 225 yards of 12 lb.) with the standard Ultra Mag features plus the no-tool bayonet-lock spool. The carried-over Ultra Mag I and II have the narrow and standard spools respectively and retail for a few dollars less.

The Ambassadeur Mag I (narrow spool) and Mag II (standard spool) lack the self-centering level wind and weigh a half-ounce more, but also sell at a significantly lower price level. The non-magnetic, low profile Ambassadeur 1000 (narrow spool) and 2000 (standard spool) are the economy entries which can retail under $50. They have sintered brass bushings (instead of ball bearings) and polymer frame, side plates and spool—but retain the 10-year warranty.

ABU-GARCIA brought in a new small model in the traditional profile—the Ambassadeur 3500, a narrow spool version of the famous 5500C standard spool. Saltwater anglers usually opt for the wide spool (325 yards of 12 lb.) 6500C which also has a click. All of these reels feature stainless steel ball bearings, palming side plate, brass drive gears, 4.7:1 gear ratio, and the 10-year warranty. The biggest Ambassadeur baitcaster is the 7000 (275 yards of 20 lb.) with brass drive gears and a 4:1 gear ratio. Though technically a baitcaster, it gets much use as a jigging and bottom fishing reel—and is even used for surfcasting by some pros on the Cape, as well as by pompano anglers in the southeast Florida surf.



ABU-Garcia Ambassadeur 3500C is a new entry in the traditional style.

New Ryobi V-Mag series features both magnetic casting and V-spools.

SHIMANO continues to expand its extensive line of magnetic casting reels and has only two of the original non-magnetic Bantams left in the line. The new Magnumlite 2000 GT weighs only 6½ ounces, but holds 160 yards of 12 lb. on the standard spool—or 85 yards when the Graphite V-Spool Converter is installed. That converter is included with this and other Shimano magnetics. Graphite and titanium components are used in this model to lower weight and eliminate corrosion. Other features include Shimano Super Gears, Quick-Fire casting control for one-handed use, stainless steel ball bearings, graphite thumb rest, and Fish Saver Switch direct drive mechanism that allows the handle to back up so line can be payed out while live lining or fighting a fish.

Both larger and smaller models are added to the two Mag Plus models (BMP-250 and left-hand crank BMP-251) from last year. Saltwater anglers will be interested in the BMP-350 which takes 220 yards of 12 lb. even though it weighs only 8.9 ounces. The BMP-15 and BMP-150 (stainless steel ball bearings) holds 110 yards of 12 lb. All models have 5:1 or better gear ratios and the converter.

Dropping back a bit in price, there's the six-model Bantam Mag series that includes the new left-hand crank BMG-21SG which takes up to 130 yards of 12 lb. Along with the ball bearing BMG-201SG and the BMP-251 Mag Plus, this gives Shimano three left-hand models—which are also the only ones left on the market since ABU-Garcia dropped their single entry. Though some lefties have always wanted left-hand cranks, there was never any reason for them to convert once they learned to cope with the standard right hand crank. Since they cast with their strong left arm, they don't have to switch the rod from one hand to the other as righties do. The reason Shimano has the three left-hand crank reels is to convert righties to fishing in this more efficient fashion.

LEW CHILDRE has jumped into the magnetic field with a four-reel series topped by the two ball bearing BB-1MB (120 yards of 12 lb.) and the cheaper, non-ball bearing BB-1M. The most excitement in this line surrounds the tiny V-spool BB-XLM which weighs only six ounces and holds 90 yards of 12 lb. With the other Mag Spool features such as power handle, disengaging level wind, instant spool engagement, and one-piece frame, this ultra-light baitcaster should still retail for little more than $30! It was specifically designed for women and other anglers with small

(Continued on page 36.)

★ ★ ★ HOW-TO SPECIAL ★ ★ ★

MANUAL BAIL CONVERSION

by Ray Hendrickson

Many "heady" casters swear by the manual pickup. Here are some easy guidelines for converting your current spinning reel.

I'd rather forget those sundry times I'd been beat out casting to a breaking bass. "Get rid of that bail," they chided, whipping another popper into the surf while I was still folding back the hoop. And then it finally happened—just as they predicted: the straw, called a bail spring, that broke this camel's back.

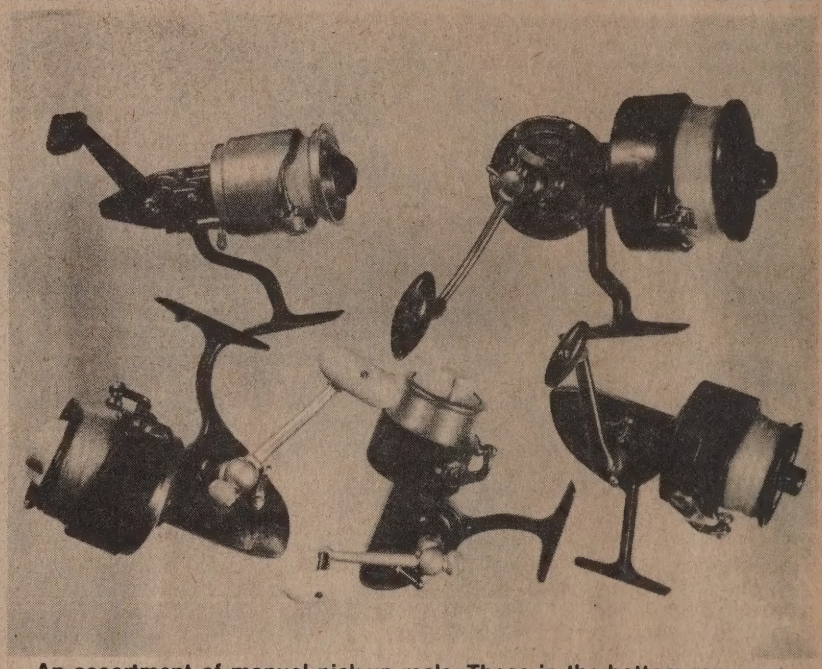
Bass poppin' thicker than mayflies on the Beaverkill. No need for speed. The water was one big boil for an acre all around—and the spring broke! Fortunately, I got home early enough to finally do what I'd been told. I went manual—and in less than two weeks I'd converted every mill in my inventory to manual pickup.

The manufacturers have learned some through the intervening years too, and there are a fair number of reels on the market today offering manual pickup, or at least designed-in conversion. Too, some new models such as those offered by Daiwa, offer variations on the theme. Then again, Fin-Nor produced a manual finger years ago without a hint of a bail.

Other than the salient features of nothing to break, and quickness tendered by eliminating the operation of opening the bail, manual pickups offer a few more advantages. If you're one of the stealthy breed plying ebon beaches, you'll appreciate missing the clunk of a closing bail. Why, with a bit of wind, and pebbles rustling in the wash, the guy 10 yards away might never know you're there.

Then there's the manner in which lacking a bail teaches an angler efficient line control (and this might well be the most salient feature for beginning fishermen). Many spin fishermen, depending upon the bail to stop the line, have never developed an educated forefinger akin to the competent thumb of a conventional caster. Going manual, one soon learns to keep his finger in constant, though gentle, contact with the outgoing line. In short order, he gets a feel for how the plug is traveling, the slackening off in line speed, and from then on he couldn't care less how dark it is. He always knows what his lure is doing on the way out—and he'll have it swimming as it hits the water.

An element worth considering before chopping the bail off that surf mill is—how much of a creature of



An assortment of manual pick-up reels. Those in the bottom row were converted by hacksaw, and the Quick on the right has been fitted with a custom shaft to accept the roller from another reel. The Fin-Nor at upper left sports an immovable pick-up finger that functions automatically as part of an integrated design. The venerable Luxor at upper right can be switched from bail to manual without any rework.

A few simple tools and the urge to improve are all that's required.

habit are you. Once addicted to manual on the big stick, will you more then likely forget to open the bail when working the pinky stick?

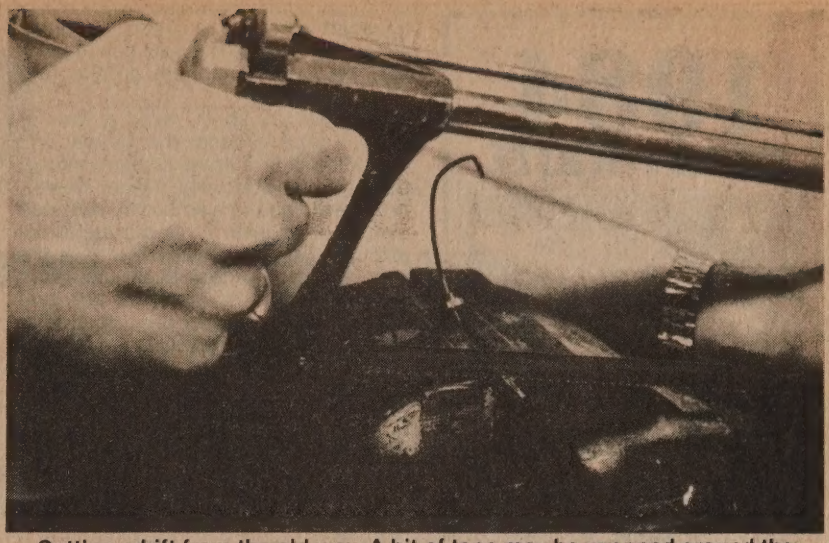
Thousand-foot casts with a half ounce popper do scant good when the line isn't attached! I'm a confirmed advocate of all-or-nothing. The fewer considerations required of me when switching rigs, the better. Although I will confess that my old Quick Micro Lite still sports its bail. My fingers need a bit of help handling two-pound thread.

So much for reasons. Here's what's involved in converting. Although any reel can be reworked, it's simpler, and generally within the capabilities of any angler, if the bail lock is on the same side as the roller. With the lock on the other side, additional effort and, more than likely, parts fabrication, will be required to maintain roller position after the bail is cut. Do not figure on merely shimming under the roller arm screw head to maintain position. Friction never works when we want it to! Such conversions require some sort of keying to adequately resist the turning forces imposed by tight lines. I've gone to the effort on many reels offering other features that made it worthwhile, but now when I buy a new reel I opt for one with roller and lock together. Starting with this type, one can hardly foul up more than the roller end of the bail, which is easily replaced; so here's how it goes.

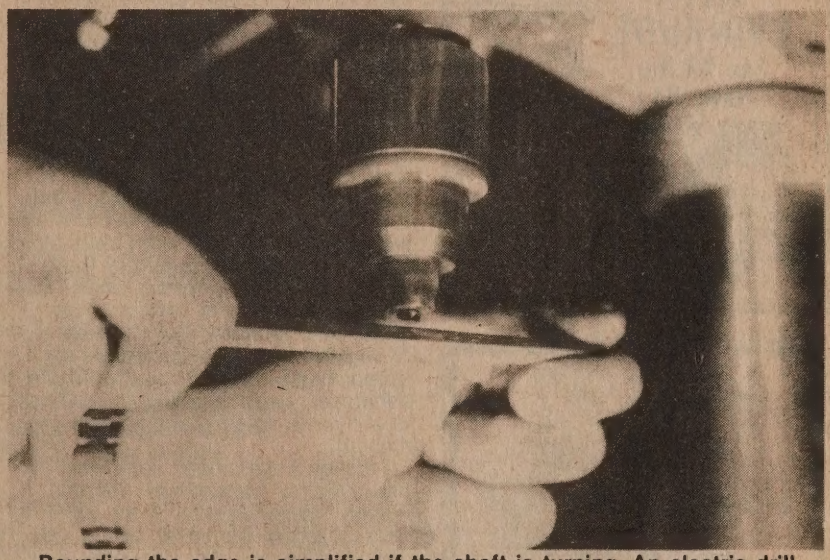
Remove the nut holding the bail to the roller arm, pull the bail from the arm and put the hardware, including the roller, in a safe place. Detach the bail from the reel by removing the threaded pivot fitting, or whatever device is used opposite the roller arm. Now you're left with a roller arm exactly where the maker intended it to be, and a roller without a shaft. (Although some reels may still have the roller mounted after removing the bail, the basics of this article still apply. For clarity, the particular operations performed herein apply to standard reels such as the Penn in the illustrations.)

The shaft, in this case, is still on the bail, and with a modicum of simple effort, we're going to move it. Cut the threaded roller end of the bail about one-eighth inch from the roller shoulder, leaving just enough material to provide a head to retain the roller after reassembly. Some anglers opt for a longer tapered head, but I've found it unnecessary, even harmful. Some bail-less, automatic pickup reels do have long fingers, but they are integrated designs outside the amateur's realm.

Clamp the bail in a vise with the roller shaft protruding and mark the cut with a file, or let the vise jaws act as a guide. Too, you might wrap the shaft end with some tape to guard against an errant hacksaw blade. Use a 32-tooth blade for easiest cutting. Clamp the cut-off shaft in the vise with the head protruding, wrapping



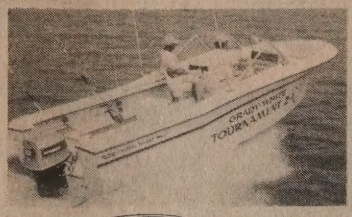
Cutting adrift from the old way. A bit of tape may be wrapped around the threaded shaft to avoid damage if the blade slips.



Rounding the edge is simplified if the shaft is turning. An electric drill motor is another common source of rotation.

Practically ready to fish. Note the scrap of soft metal nestled in the plier jaws to protect the shaft head.

1984
GRADY-WHITE



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the shaft with a scrap of soft copper or aluminum. Dress the saw cut reasonably square and smooth with a fine file.

Remove the shaft, wrap a turn or two of tape around the shank and chuck it in a drill press or hand motor, but not over-zealously. Under power, dress the head to a smoothly rounded shape, or at least form a substantial radius on the edge. Start with a file and work down the finish with progressively finer grades of abrasive paper, forming a smooth finish that your line will appreciate.

Lubricate the shaft and roller, and re-fasten to the bail arm with the previously stored hardware. Use that soft scrap of metal from the vise to cushion the polished head between plier jaws while tightening the nut. If your particular reel was made with the bail-wire brazed into the roller shaft, you may see some eventual discoloration of the brazing material, but it won't be functionally harmful. Fortunately, quality reels are nearly always made with "cold headed" bail wires made entirely from stainless steel.

On a good spinning reel the rotor is balanced so it doesn't feel like you're cranking a Model T on the retrieve. Deleting the bail destroys this balance, but it's easily restored. Methods vary from reel to reel, but in most cases, playing games with the fitting that held the opposite end of the bail works best. Plugging the small hole with a rivet made of lead or solder is one means. Some anglers remove the fitting and epoxy in a suitable weight, or epoxy the weight to the fitting. Whatever, you'll know when balance is achieved when cranking becomes smooth.

I haven't mentioned removing the bail-tripping mechanism because if it's on the roller-side of the rotor it usually forms the roller arm's stop; and if it's on the opposite side, deletion amplifies the imbalance. If it doesn't control the roller arm's position, get rid of it and fill any holes through the rotor with a spot of epoxy putty.

Some reels contain an anti-inertia device to prevent the rotor from spinning on the cast, resulting in a snagged line and lost lure. If such a device is made inoperative by removing the bail, a dab of stiff grease in the gear chamber helps to counteract the loss. However, proper positioning of the rotor and handle prior to firing off a cast is the best remedy.

To check out alignment, with the spool fully extended from the rotor the handle should point downward and aft. This precludes the line rubbing on the rotor's lip and positions the handle's mass where it's least affected by inertia during the snap of the cast. If your reel doesn't line up this way, try adding a washer to the threaded joint if that's how it is attached. Filing the washer thickness can fine-tune the handle position perfectly. Handles that are pinned to the gear shaft present a problem unless there are provisions for re-pinning. Best bet is to examine the exploded parts breakdown that hopefully came with the reel. You may find a means of repositioning therein.

When casting manually, crank the roller to the top and pick off the line with your finger as usual. When you let go of the handle, it and the roller will settle to proper position and the spool will be extended. Snap off a cast—and immediately drop your finger back down so it just **kisses** the line. Manual or otherwise, this is the key to line control, as that barely tangible touch of the line telegraphs how your lure is sailing fish-ward—even on the darkest of nights. No additional verbiage can help. Practice, and in short order throwing loops and spinning rat's nests will be ancient history.

As the lure nears touchdown, hook the line with your fingertip (this also applies to bailed reels) and then draw your finger backward a bit and start cranking. The roller will come around and wipe the line right off your finger—**sans** clunks, clatter and holts. Southpaws will have to snap their finger forward and out of the way as they feel the roller meet the line, because I've yet to see a spinning reel that reverses rotor rotation when the handle is mounted on the other side. If the finger isn't snatched clear the roller will cram the line into a southpaw's hand instead of slipping it off his finger. Some anglers with fingers that don't quite make the reach on big mills use their off hand to "feather" the line during the cast, and use that hand to pick the line and position it for the roller pickup.

Now that we've gone through the routine it's evident that choosing the right reel for rework can make the job a sinecure. Starting with a reel like the Penn 700 series (one of which was reworked for the illustrations) gets anyone off to an easy start. After that, more involved reels can be tackled as requirements warrant.

No production reel is totally free of drawbacks, and neither is a reworked bail-less model—and I'm not going to mask any faults for the sake of pushing a theme. Although I'm obviously a ban-the-bail zealot, there are times when I cuss the system for its intolerance of laxity. Without a closed bail to trap the line, on a manual mill the line is prone to slip off the roller unless a modicum of tension is maintained. Although you can throw all the slack into the line that you want while bouncing a popper back, you can't tote the rig around in a breeze without benefit of terminal tackle to tension the line a bit. Too, don't set the rod down so the plug or bait is resting on some object. If the line goes slack, it's almost sure to fall off the roller. I doubt that the manual-reel fisherman breathes who hasn't knocked the line off his roller inadvertently a hundred times. He's cussed, flipped it back in place, swore he'd scrap the entire rig—but never has!

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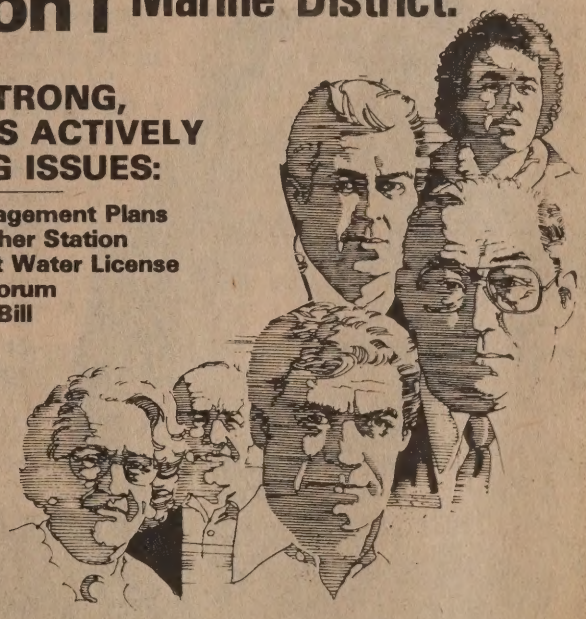

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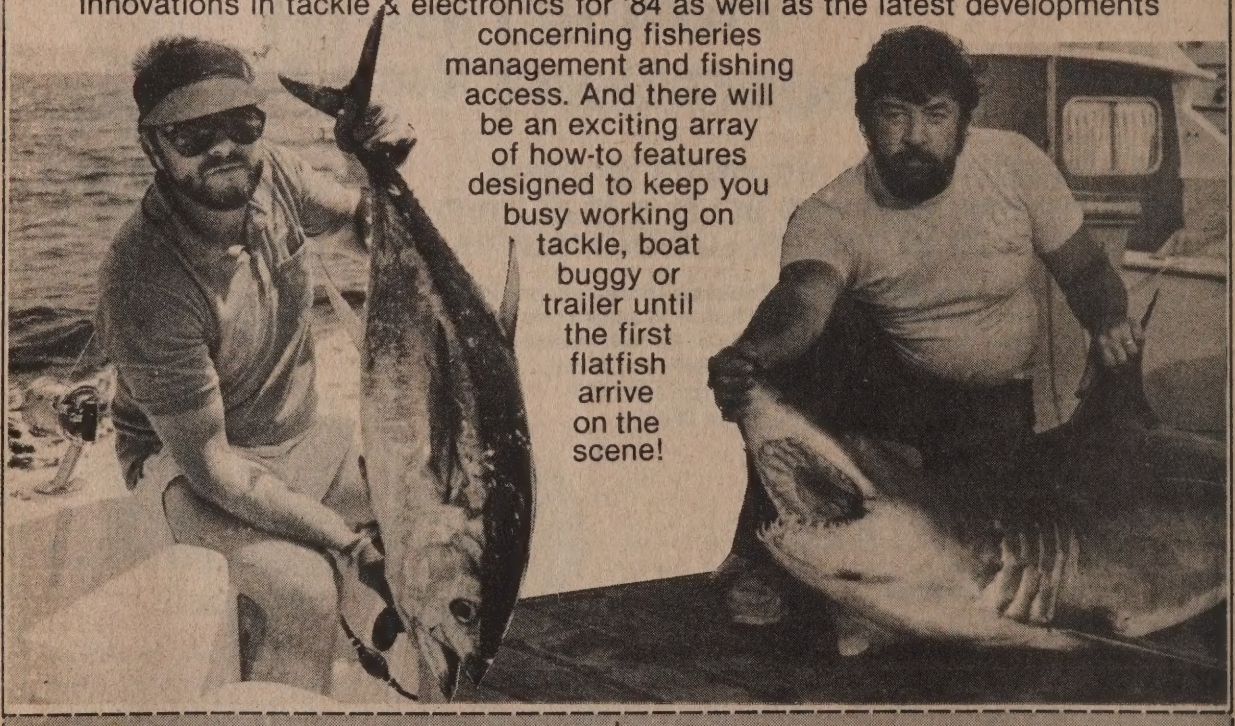

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THE NEW SUPER CUTTER

by Tom Fitzsimmons

Surfmen are back in business with an old favorite that returns lighter and stronger.

If you've only been fishing the surf for a few years, you may have heard the term "super cutter" used by a few old salts you might have encountered at night on the beach and wondered exactly what they were talking about. The "super cutter" was the name used by many of the older surfmen to describe a fishing rod blank manufactured by Lamiglas Inc. This blank is probably more familiar to you by the number 1165, which is how it was referred to in the Lamiglas catalog. It was originally developed for use as a baitcasting rod and was used heavily in the surf in the Long Island area. It was, and still is by some, considered to be the perfect bait rod. There was just enough snap to the tip to heave out a chunk of bait with a four ounce sinker, as long as it was not overloaded with too many guides, and the rod had enough guts to handle the big fish. It later developed into the most popular surf spinning rod for throwing plugs as spinning reels became an accepted method for fishing the surf.

Although the original blank is no longer available due to changes in the type of fiberglass used in manufacturing the blank, there is a blank available from Lamiglas that I feel comes very close to what the old "super cutter" was. It goes by the designation SSB136 3M. The designation stands for: S is 'S'-type fiberglass; SB is surf blank; 136 is the length, in inches; 3 is the power of the tip in a range from 1 to 5; and M is the action of the rod, in this case medium. These last two classifications, 3M, are used as ratings within its own category, that of surf and bar blank, and only relate for comparison within that group. It is, in my estimation, the best spinning rod available for throwing those big plugs in the surf, and it deserves the reinstated title "super cutter" that many surf rats have already dubbed it.

This new blank is made from a brown, semi-translucent, smooth-finished fiberglass referred to as S-glass by the Lamiglas Company. This type of fiberglass is superior to the more traditional honey-colored blank because it is lighter in weight by almost three ounces, has a higher modulus of elasticity which gives the rod greater strength with a thinner wall thickness, it possesses a faster tip recovery rate (coming very close to the graphite blanks), and also affords you better sensitivity which will enable you to feel those light taps from skittish fish. The SSB136 3M is available at many local tackle stores as a blank for a do-it-yourself winter project, or as a stock, custom-made rod at some shops. Tackle stores that do custom building will also be willing to make the rod up to your specifications. Its length of 11½ feet is easily handled and gives the surfcaster just the right leverage to throw big plugs to fish that are waiting just off the beach. And when you have hooked up, this rod will provide you with good holding power to control the fish, and enough backbone to land that big fish. This "S" glass model makes those long nights of continuous casting a lot easier on your back and arms and therefore, allows you to fish longer before becoming fatigued. The honey-colored model is more traditional and is less costly, but the savings on you physically, and the opportunity to fish longer is well worth the difference.

The old 1165 Lami can still be found in the arsenals of most surf regulars.

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The range of lure weights as rated by Lamiglas is from 3 to 8 ounces (I am dubious about the rating to eight ounces) but it is easily capable of handling Atom 40s, large bottle plugs and darters, loaded RedFins, a large variety of tins, as well as the lighter 5½ inch super Rebels, when combined with the proper line size. I prefer to use the Penn 706 with between 15 and 20 pound test line with this rod. The lighter line being used with the smaller plugs at the beginning of the fall, and then switching to the heavier line as the size of the fish begins to increase.

Building the rod once you have purchased the blank is simple. There have been several excellent articles in The Long Island Fisherman describing step by step methods for construction. There are also books, such as **Fiberglass Rod Making** and **Advanced Custom Rod Building** by Dale Clemens, available through The Fisherman's library that can be great aids in helping you through the construction of the rod whether it's your first or fiftieth. So, rather than going into great detail about building the new "super cutter," I would rather discuss some of the finer points that I feel may be of help to you in building this excellent surf blank.

Let's start with guide selection. My favorite guides to use with this large surf spin rod have, until recently, been the Varmac SGB guides. They are constructed of stainless steel with a superior industrially hard chrome plating. And compared with the quality of the other stainless guides available, I feel these are the best to use. They will stand up to the salts and abuse, and are constructed with great care. They have a brace for added strength and the joint of the ring is ground very smooth. I have yet to find a burr at the ring joint when inspecting the guides at the time of purchase that could cause the line to become frayed and break at that typically lease opportune time.

The only problem I have found with these guides is that the largest one available, a 75 ring size, is not large enough, and because of this I still prefer using a Mildrum braced SRAS 75 as the first guide. If you have built rods before I'm sure you know that the manufacturers of guides apparently do not use the same method of sizing the guides. I have, until this past season, been, as many of you are, an advocate of bigger is better in relation to guide size. But the use of Fuji guides on this rod, with smaller ring sizes, could provide a far superior combination than the stainless type in several ways. These guides sit higher from the blank to the bottom of the ring which is more important than a larger ring size when using a large spinning reel that sits high off the blank. The Fuji guides also tend to bring the line under control faster and helps to prevent the line from slapping on the blank which will affect your casting distance. Both the Fuji aluminum oxide and SIC rings are harder than stainless and slicker as the line passes through the guide. They will also last longer since there is very little effect from the salts and no grooving of the ring from the line. So, if your budget allows, I would recommend using the Fuji aluminum oxide, lightweight spinning guides incorporating the following sizes: 50, 40, 25, 20, 16 and tip with a spacing centerline to centerline from the tip of 8¾, 10, 14, 18 and 24 inches. For the SIC guides try a 30H, 25M, 20L and two 16LL and the tip. Or, if you wish to remain more traditional, with economy in mind, use the Mildrum SRAS 75 with the Varmac SGB 50, 40, 30, 16, and as always, a Fuji tip. Or you may try the Mildrum braced SRAS 75, 48, 36 with the unbraced SRA, 24 and 14, again with a Fuji tip. Try spacing these standard type stainless guides, from the tip, 8-7/8, 12½, 15½, 18¼ and 22 inches. The spacing of the guides I have given is, in both cases, an approximation and should be checked before you wrap the rod, remembering that slight adjustments may be necessary for the proper deflection of the rod. You should always remember to grind down the ends of the guide feet (taking care to remove any burrs or sharp edges) before you wrap them on. This allows the thread to climb the foot easier and looks much neater. When using the Fuji guides, this is a must since they tend to be even higher than on the stainless guides.

For wrapping the guides, I prefer to use an underwrap of "A"-size thread first. This acts as a cushion between the blank and foot of the guide. The "A"-thread, after you have burnished it and finished it with an epoxy coating, because it is a very thin thread, will look as if you painted it on because the burnishing action tends to flatten the threads and push them closer together eliminating any gaps. Even the top wrap will look much better and smoother after it has been burnished. For the top, or overwrap, I recommend you use the "D"-size thread. Although smaller in diameter than "E"-thread, it will be just as strong. Another concern with wrapping the guides is the length of the wrap that extends onto the blank. It is more beneficial to use as little as possible. If you use too long a wrap, it will have a tendency to change the action of the blank by overloading it and making it whippy. For the overwrap I prefer to have about 5/16 inches with 1/8 inches of underwrap trim showing at the larger, first guide; a 1/4 inch overwrap with a 1/8 inch underwrap at the second and third; and about 3/16 inches with a 1/8 inch underwrap at the last two guides. I have never had a guide ripped off the rod using these small amounts of wrap, and feel it also creates a cleaner, neater appearance.

I also prefer to use the non-NCP threads for purely aesthetic reasons. The colors turn out more vibrant and attractive. Remember, though, that the use of color preserver is required

for this type of thread. For the final finish, I strongly recommend the use of Dale Clemens Crystal Coast two-part epoxy. Although an 11½ foot rod is considered a heavy, fairly stiff rod, it is still extremely flexible, and Crystal Coat is a flexible finish that will not crack as rapidly as Flex-Coat, which is really made for the heavier, boat-type rods. It is also much easier to apply than Flex-Coat and has a longer pot life. You can mix a large enough amount to cover the wraps several times with thinner coats and store what's left in the freezer as you wait for each coat to cure.

The choice between the use of reel seats and taping the reel directly to the blank will be discussed at greater length in next week's issue, but my choice has always been to use a reel seat for one main reason. Since it is important to keep your reel in good shape, and constant fishing in the surf tends to coat the reel with salt deposits, I prefer to clean my reel after each trip, so I use the reel seat method. And with the use of the new Fuji graphite seats, I do not find it uncomfortable during the cold weather. I use the number 24 seat and epoxy it to the blank with PC-7 brand two-part epoxy, after roughing up the fiberglass. I also use the hand-hugger type grips rather than cork tape, although more expensive. I prefer the larger sized diameter and comfort these grips afford. I use an eight inch section at the butt with a six inch section each side of the reel seat. You may want to take this method into consideration depending upon the size of your hand and the diameter of a grip that is more comfortable for you. Having a grip that is too small could possibly cause cramps to develop in your hand if you fish for long hours at a stretch.

The location of the reel seat is important. It should be located relative to your height, arm length and strength. What is comfortable for one fisherman may not be to another, and again comfort is important. If the distance between the butt and reel is too large you could become fatigued quickly and develop backache, thereby diminishing the length of time you will be able to stay in the water. I am 6' 1'' and find mounting the reel seat about 22 inches from the butt to be about the ideal location for this rod. Remember to adjust the location if you prefer to mount your reel seat in a down-locking position because this changes the final location of the reel since the fixed hood will be at the bottom, closer to the butt.

In closing, let me just say that if you do decide to build another surf rod, try the ''new super cutter.'' I think you will find an impressive difference from the standard honey-colored model. And if you've never built or used an 11½ foot rod in the surf, I am sure you will discover that using the SSB136 3M will turn out to be a wise choice and hopefully give you a rewarding, exciting and productive season this year in the surf.

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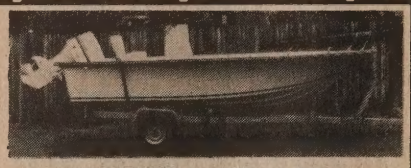

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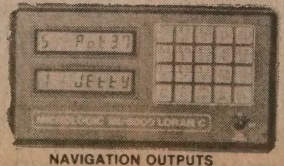

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by Gerald Hahn

Winter weary anglers find a cure for cabin fever between polar blasts.

The party boat plowed through melting ice in the harbor and at last made it to the inlet. For a change, the ocean beyond was calm and the sun looked promising as well on this mild January day. Inside the heated cabin, fishermen played out a scene from an old Western. Cigarette smoke mingled with pungent cigar smoke and the perfumed aroma of someone's pipe. A poker game at one table was countered by gin rummy at another and pinochle at a third. Any moment now, you expected John Wayne to come crashing through the swinging (in this case, sliding) doors.

Only a few years ago, winter codfishing was so poor that the regulars spent more time playing cards than fishing. Today, however, they would soon be rigging up, for codfish are on the upswing again.

Ever since man first wet a spear, a hook or a net, he has pursued cod. Yet throughout the centuries the species managed to survive, because cod are such prolific breeders. In the 9th Century, Nordic fishermen/warriors discovered the Grand Banks off Newfoundland, and cod soon fed armies that ransacked coastal Europe. However, hotspots seldom remain a secret for long, even in the coldest places, and for several hundred years Grand Banks' cod were competitively harvested by the French, Spanish, Portuguese and British. The fish fed people and more armies, since someone had discovered how to preserve cod by salting it and soldiers could stay in the battlefields for longer periods. Indeed, the British triggered the Revolutionary War in part by imposing unreasonable taxes and other restrictions on Colonial fishermen.

In our own time, we have seen a different kind of war—the mechanization of commercial fishing fleets increasing the codfish harvest to dangerous levels of depletion. One result of this mechanization was that winter sport fishing from Montauk to the New York Bight virtually died. In the last few years, however, codfishing restrictions on both U.S. and foreign fleets have given the species a chance to regain their losses. The cod fishery still has a long way to go, but at last a mid-winter trip on a party boat is now worthwhile.

Of course, a major consideration at this time of year is the weather. Only the hardiest souls will go out when the New York Bight offers little more than frostbite. A mild spell in mid-winter, however, is no worse than fishing in early spring or late autumn, and this is the best time to squeeze in a codfishing trip.

A "mid-winter" cod comes over the rail of a south shore open boat.

Nonetheless, even on a mild day the ocean air is brisk, and the angler's most important considerations are keeping warm and dry. So, if you'd rather fish than play cards, put on thermal underwear and several layers of light clothing. Foul weather gear will buffet the frost as well. A ski mask or any other warm hat that can be pulled over the ears is a must. So are insulated boots and waterproof gloves. Without the latter, particularly, wet hands will cling to ice cold metal reels and reel seats like metal filings to a magnet. The bait, moreover, is still half-frozen when you begin to fish, and on some days so are the rods in their holders.

The party boat slowed down, made a few passes and finally anchored at a wreck in about 100 feet of water. Fishermen quickly stowed away their cards and broke out the tackle, which ranged from six foot rental rods and Penn 65s to nine foot codsticks and Penn Senators. In-between were the speedsters with their bluefishing rods and Jigmasters. Despite these differences, most people were using 40 pound test line.

A cod rig for wreck fishing begins with an 8/0 Beak, Sproat or O'-Shaughnessy hook snelled to an 18 inch leader of 50 pound test. The hook is connected to a dropper loop on the main line anywhere from a snell's length to four feet above the sinker. A short piece of surgical tubing over the dropper/snell connection keeps the hook away from the main line. When fishing over frozen real estate, it is advisable to check with the mates about the most appropriate height of the hook. An end loop below the hook secures an eight ounce bank or diamond sinker, and the rig is complete. Some people use a barrel swivel and a long leader of 40 or 50 pound test when fishing at a wreck. If the rig hooks the wreck, it will break at the swivel and save a considerable amount of fishing line. Using two hook rigs at a wreck usually gets you

in trouble.

Cod are so greedy, they will eat almost anything—including squid, crabs, fish fry, fish strips, baitfish and beer cans, but almost every party boat relies on skimmer clams. While fishermen are player poker in the cabin, the mates are busy shucking clams by the bushel. Unfortunately, many fishermen believe that a bushel of clams skewered on the hook and halfway up the snelled leader will attract more cod. It certainly will—and also bergalls, toadfish, conger eels and other scavengers. Indeed, cod love a totem pole made of clams; they slurp the stuff right off the hook and then move on. Better to use a smaller amount, half to three-quarters of a skimmer, and carefully pack it on the hook, by twisting and impaling the firm part several times and leaving a small amount of the soft part dangling below the point for added attraction. Clams should be replaced periodically when they become pale and washed out.

Anglers quickly moved to the side of the boat facing the wreck, and when the skipper blasted the horn, they lowered their baited rigs slowly to the bottom. This prevents the hook from riding up and twisting around the main line. When they felt the rig touch bottom, they raised it a foot or so to clear the wreck and then held the rod absolutely still. For even in warmer weather, cod are not fond of running after a meal, and particularly in mid-winter they're as sluggish as spring flounder. The angler who likes to jig his bait would do better tying the rod to the rail and playing stud poker in the cabin. Occasionally, however, a veteran angler will raise his rod to see if a cod has taken the bait and fallen asleep with it. Wreck fishing is usually the most productive in mid-winter, since the cod are confined to a small area. That morning, fishermen made a steady catch of cod under 10 pounds. Small cod predominate in winter, although there are days when "hangers," specimens over 30 pounds, are taken. When the wreck seemed depleted, the skipper blasted the horn again and headed for open bottom.

Open bottom fishing is generally performed by drifting. The same rig is employed although the hook may be tied lower than when fishing at a wreck. In fact, some people tie a second dropper just above the sinker and add a smaller hook on a 12 inch snell for this kind of fishing. The line, of course, should move away from the boat, not under it; and a position near the stern or bow end is recommended. The first hits seem to come from one end or the other. Drifting over shell-strewn bottom is generally slower than when fishing at a wreck. That afternoon, drifting only yielded a few cod although some were in the 20 pound class.

At times, the skipper may park the boat over a choice piece of terrain and not a wreck. In this case, a position at the stern is best, since cod swimming upcurrent will encounter these rigs first. For the same reason, fishermen cast the rig as far away from the boat as possible, and then drag it along the bottom slowly, with frequent pauses along the way.

Small or large, cod, being groundfish, are not the most reputable fighters. Neither are most of their relatives, including haddock, red or squirrel hake (ling), silver hake (whiting) and white hake. Only the pollack, generally taken during the spring and fall runs, has a fighting reputation and a nickname "Boston Blue," to match. Old bucketmouth cod, however, is easily distinguishable from the rest, by his light lateral line, chin barbel, three dorsal fins or large size. In mid-winter, the primary catch consists of cod although sometimes a stray whiting or blackfish is taken as well.

No matter whether the boat is anchored or drifting, cod must be hooked carefully. Sometimes the fish signals his interest with several tugs on the line; other times only the faintest nibble is detected. Either way, give the cod a moment to swallow the bait before you set the hook. Although most cod fight like driftwood, a large one can take line even against a tightly set drag, especially at the beginning of the fight when it tries to dive to the bottom. Thereafter, the fish gets a case of the bends, at which point even a cow can do little but roll over on its side and await the gaff.

Nonetheless, some people lose their cod. Those anglers who think they're still tangling with fall blues are especially likely to lose their cod. They pump the rod constantly which only helps wear a large hole in the cod's jaw. Better to bring the fish up slowly, with the rod held still.

By the end of the day, most people had made a respectable catch of mid-winter cod, certainly better than in previous seasons. On the way home, they also had a chance to see the mates retrieve a setline they had released in the morning and numerous cod mixed with conger eels came over the rail. The setline they used was a miniature version of the mile-long longline employed in the Grand Banks. Even so, it was the highest hi-lo rig you can imagine, consisting of 50 to 100 hooks in series and an equal number of sinkers. A marker made it easy to spot and retrieve the setline.

Fishing for mid-winter cod has certainly improved in both the East End and the West End. Plan a trip this winter. Before you go out, however, call the party boat of your choice since schedules are erratic at this time of year. In the West End, party boats going for cod are in Sheepshead Bay, Freeport and Captree, and in the East End, primarily at Montauk. By all means, bring along a deck of cards, but be prepared for some angling surprises as well. If winter cod continue to expand, fishing won't be a game of chance.

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OLD MARTIN REVISITED

by Matt Ahern

None of his peers would dispute that "Old Martin" was destined for sainthood.

It is a rare day when the postman fails to stop out front of our house. Letters, letters, and more letters, all from Fisherman readers who enjoy 'shooting the breeze' and sharing comments and tips. All well and good; and regardless of how many letters I receive in any given day, each gets its reply—no matter how long it takes for me to do so.

As I say, many of these letters contain comments, and many contain suggestions on how to catch more fish, which is all to the good, for certainly we can all learn from each other. But occasionally when a reader mentions the fishing I enjoyed in the long ago, he will take me to task by stating that fishing could never have been as good as I claim in my old-timer stories. (Oh, ye of little faith!) To such a letter-writer there isn't much I can say: if the fellow's a non-believer, he's a non-believer—and what are you going to do about it?

All of which brings me to this: several days ago I received a letter from Sal Bianco of Amityville. Sal asked why I cast all the old-timers I write about in the mold of saints. Weren't there any devils about? Sal ended his letter by saying: "No one can make me believe there weren't any bad guys around those days."

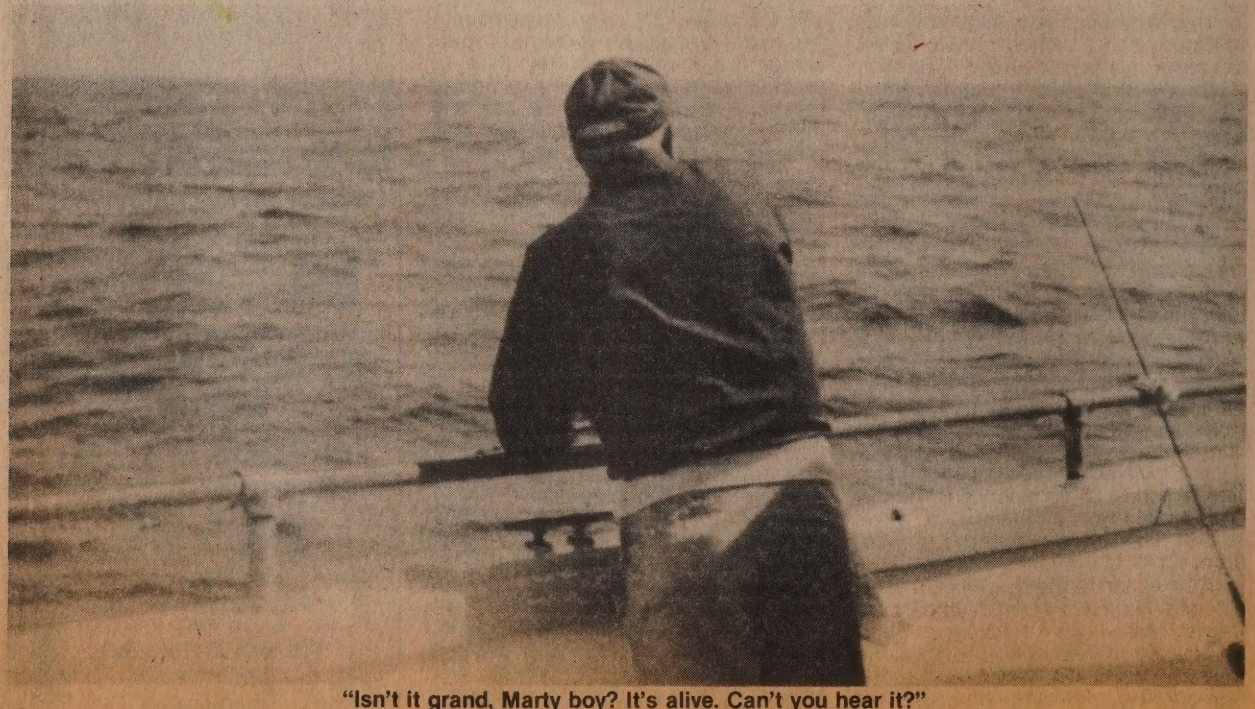
Certainly there were bad guys, Sal. We had our John Dillingers, our Bonnie and Clydes, and other assorted desperadoes whose names the passage of years has erased. Real public enemies. And we kids of that day were extremely interested in the doings of these characters. None of us, though, considered them heroes. We knew them for the bums they were. We might have been slow on the draw when compared to kids today, but not that slow. But anyway, Sal, my apologies; I don't think you meant your questions to be answered in such a manner. And that is why I wrote and said I hoped you would consider this article an answer.

I first wrote this story about four years ago and I think it could stand a repeat, for certainly there are many new Fisherman readers since that time. And besides, it won't hurt to remind ourselves of the way it was a little over a half-century ago, to relive a time when our now sad old world was aglow with promise and hope for the future.

What made me write the original Old Martin story was a letter from Harold Mittendorf of Brooklyn. Mr. Mittendorf told me he recalled his grandfather telling stories of the many "rough and ready" fishermen who frequented party boats at the turn of the century, particularly those from Sheepshead Bay. Real tough cases, he called them. Contingents of police—and ambulances—were on hand to greet the party boats as they returned from their daily offshore trips. These were needed, Harold's grandfather said, to control unruly fishermen and to cart off the injured. Mr. Mittendorf concluded his letter by asking if I witnessed similar events in my youth.

Well, the turn of the century was much before my time; therefore, I can't comment on Mr. Mittendorf's letter from firsthand experience. If memory holds true, I do recall hearing such stories, but how truthful they were, I don't know.

However, when I was growing up on party boats such events were never witnessed by me. During the hundreds and hundreds of party boat trips I've made over the years, I can recall but six instances of out and out drunkenness, and absolutely no knock-'em-down-and-drag-'em-out



"Isn't it grand, Marty boy? It's alive. Can't you hear it?"

fights. In fact, with but few exceptions every fisherman I knew seemed always well behaved; actually, the only thing of importance to these old-timers was the catching of as many fish as possible.

So, with the decks cleared, and all that, let's get to the story of Old Martin.

Fortunately, I am blessed with a retentive memory. It fails only when I force it to concentrate on something difficult—like grocery shopping, for instance. And because of this quirk of Nature, it isn't difficult for me to recall those many old-time fishermen of my boyhood days, their appearance, their voice, etc.

For instance, there was Matt Smith whom I regarded more as a second father than a brother fisherman; there was Big Red who showed me how to catch my first cod; and there was Big Olaf, master fisherman of all master fishermen, who unselfishly taught me pool-winning secrets that might have taken half a lifetime to discover on my own; plus, many, many more who were so willing to take a youngster in hand and instill in him their hard-gained knowledge.

But there was this one outstanding old-timer whom I idolized and who was affectionately known to one and all as Old Martin—or just plain Martin.

Perhaps when gauged upon the yardstick of full buckets, Martin was not a great fisherman as were so many of the day, but this didn't lessen my love for him. In my young impressionable eyes, Martin could do no wrong. What his last name was, I never knew. But it matters not. What does matter is that because of my high regard, I remember him vividly to this day, though he left this mortal coil over a half-century ago.

To describe Martin's external appearance and his gentleness is not difficult, but I would be sore put to describe the goodness that lay in his heart. He had never a harsh word for anyone, nor can I call a foul epithet leaving his lips. I'm sure evil thoughts were as foreign to Martin as to the most revered saint. Old Martin was quite a man.

Newspaper cartoonist Thomas Nast in his searching for a St. Nick model could have used Old Martin with but little change in overall appearance.

Perhaps Martin had a little less in the belly and a little more in height, but he was nevertheless as quick and agile as his counterpart, sporting an almost identical rounded beard and full mustaches. Though both these were not nearly so white as was St. Nick's, Martin's exposed face radiated a ruddy complexion and humorous, twinkling blue eyes.

This was my old friend as I knew him.

A true man of the sea, Martin was a rugged Norwegian, born aboard his father's trawler on the Dogger Banks in the North Sea one roaring winter day in 1844. Oh, yes, Martin was already an old man when I knew him—eight-six, in fact. But he was ever youthful, giving the lie to his age as none other I have known. And always cheerful—no end cheerful.

Martin's one great passion was the sea.

"Isn't it grand, Marty boy?" he would often ask as we sat together on the bow of the old Rose R II, perhaps while making our way to the Cholera Bank or the deeps of 17 Fathom. "It's alive, Marty. It speaks to me all the time. Can't you hear it?"

Of course in those young and tender years I heard nothing from the sea but its roar on what Martin liked to call "a wild winter day," and absolutely nothing on a windless June morning; but I would nod and agree that indeed the sea was beautiful.

Martin must have had a hard life in his young days. I recall his telling me that his father was lost at sea with all hands in 1859, when he (Martin) was fifteen. That trawler on which Martin was born never survived a raging snowstorm—that was all he knew about it. His mother died within six months, of a broken heart Martin said. He went to live with an uncle. Two years later, Martin and his uncle "could stand it no longer," and they emigated to America.

This was in 1861. Martin remembered the Civil War well, for when he was nineteen, he joined the Navy. Here he found a home for 30 years, traveling to the remotest corners of the earth.

And it was with these adventures that Martin held me spellbound. I knew more about Hawaii (which he insisted on calling the Sandwich Islands), Japan, China, Australia, India, Africa, and such far off exotic places, than any school geography book ever taught me. And I got it straight from one who had been there instead of from some dried tome put together by an author who had probably never been out of the States.

For a young fellow, Martin was a great companion. He taught me much, not so much on fishing perhaps, but much on how one should conduct one's-self during life. "Always be kind, Marty boy," was his stock reply whenever I questioned him upon why he so often went out of his way to help others. "Be kind. For if you do this now as a boy, you are bound to grow into a good man—besides," he would always add, "the world has need for good men. It has more than its share of no-goods."

This, of course, was the philosophy of the times, a philosophy shared by most old-timers of my generation. No doubt, you can recall much of the same being the attitude of your parents and grandparents.

Martin, as was his nature, was quite talkative, but there were times when, as we fished together, he would become overly quiet and gaze intently at the distant horizon. He never said what caused this turnabout, but unknown to him, I knew. And it was easy enough to understand.

Because Martin had been associated with the sea all his life, it was not surprising that he would wish to pass away at sea as had his father. This was his hope, although as I say, he never voiced it in my presence, thinking, I suppose, that it was too morbid a subject for a boy of tender years. But this was the rumor I'd heard from those who knew Martin longer than I. Yes, my old friend was a strange man in many respects, and I would be the first to admit it.

The only time I didn't see Martin aboard the Rose R II was during winter lay-up periods. Then he would re-enter the Old Sailor's Home, which I believe was in Staten Island and overlooked the Bay. Here, Martin hibernated until April, when once again he would reappear on the scene, fit as a fiddle.

I don't believe Martin had much of a domestic life. I knew he had been a widower for a good many years, and I recall a married daughter, Innes, who I'd heard tried desperately to have her father spend his winters with her—but with little success. Martin absolutely refused. He much preferred, he said (not unkindly, I'm sure), the companionship of his old seafaring cronies.

It was Martin who taught me how to fillet such fish as bergalls, sea bass, porgies, etc., and how to skin blackfish. And after he taught me that, it then became my job in winter—when the below deck pot belly stove was giving out its most welcome warmth—to fillet four or five of the largest bergalls and take them below. Martin would then fry them in dollops of butter and sandwich several of the golden-brown, steaming-hot fillets between thick slices of black pumpernickel bread. Um-m-—I can taste them yet! And to sort of anchor them securely, Martin made scalding cups of coffee. It was pure ambrosia...there's no other word for it.

"Good, eh, Marty boy?" he would ask, knowing full well my reply was sure to be: "Fit for a king, Martin, fit for a king." To which he was certain to say: "Huh. Too good for most kings I ever heard of."

As mentioned before, Martin was not an outstanding fisherman. Never truly interested in fishing's finer points, he became a good fisherman solely through years of association with the game. Handline fishing was good enough. None of those high-falutin' rods and reels for him, he said. To Martin, fishing was just something to help spend the time while out on his beloved sea.

To demonstrate this, I recall one time when we were drifting around the old Ambrose Lightship, doing a bit of ling fishing on a fine spring day. Both of us were using handlines, both fishing beside each other as we often did. A split second after Martin had gotten a bite and began to haul in his fish, I also got a hit, struck back, and began to bring in my line, hand over

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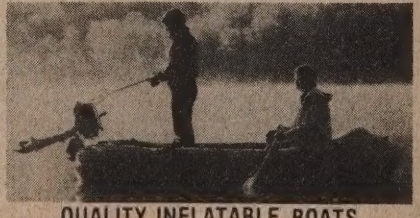

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hand. I knew the fish I'd hooked was a good one. Certainly, it was no ling. I hoped it was a cod, for if I could land it, I knew that fish would win the pool for me.

But it was no cod. It was a hake of about 12 pounds. In its efforts to escape, it had tangled itself around Martin's line—or so I thought—and we had hauled it in together.

Now comes the part that truly reveals Martin's character.

I discovered that fish wasn't mine, although Martin was to insist that it was. I watched him untangle the momentous snarl after first removing the hake and tying a knot in the tarred snell of the fish-catching hook—the procedure we used at the time for later identification.

I knew, however, that that knotted hook hadn't caught the fish simply because I was using smaller hooks than Old Martin. I wasn't that much of a novice that I didn't recognize my own terminal gear. Martin had let loose of his own hook, the one that had caught the fish, and at the precise instant he thought I wouldn't notice, had quickly grabbed one of mine and tied a knot in its snell. He wanted me to win that pool.

Which I did.

I later insisted he share the winnings with me, but he would have none of it. "You caught it fair and square, Marty boy. Lucky for you I didn't knock it off the hook, eh?" Martin...Martin...you were quite a man.

Well, Old Martin and I fished together for several years and they were joyous times for me. But like everything else, all good things must eventually come to an end.

One winter morning I showed up for some fishing, but there was no Martin to greet me. I inquired of one of the regulars if he'd seen Martin. "Didn't you hear, lad? Martin's gone. 'Most a week now. Easy now, lad. Easy. Go ahead, cry if you want. You won't be less the man for it."

When I got control of myself, I was told Martin had gone below to make that coffee without which he couldn't exist. When he was missed on deck, someone had gone below to check and found the old man lying on the life preserver locker, long past all mortal help.

The first question I asked was: "Where did it happen?"—hoping against hope that it wasn't in the Bay. The answer—are you ready for this?—out on the Cholera Bank.

I was saddened by the loss of Old Martin for a long time, but in a way, I was glad, too, for I'm sure Martin's prayers were answered.

Surely, you must admit Martin had gotten his wish.

So ends the story of Old Martin. I wanted to tell it because the tale personifies those many old-timers who fished aboard party boats during those long gone days of my youth.

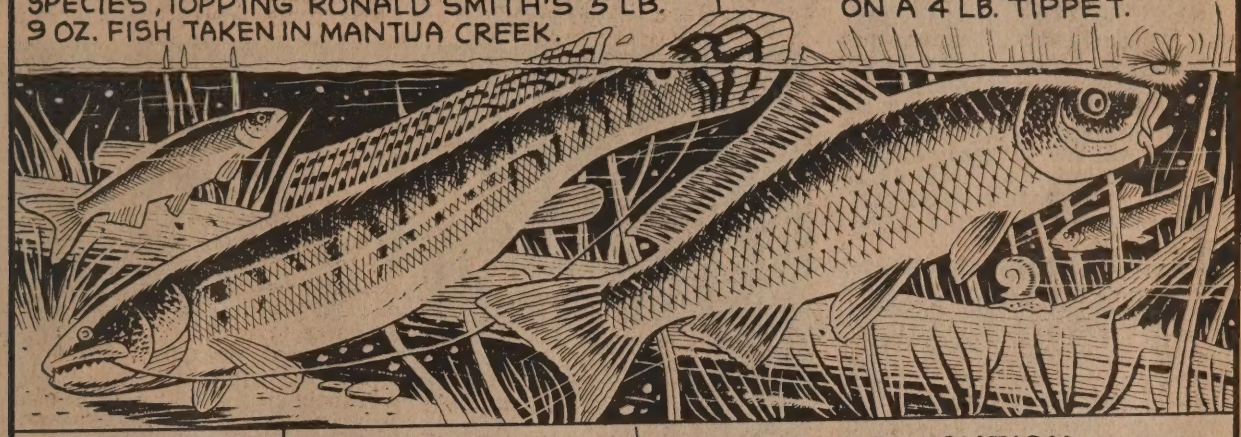
And Sal—have you any lingering doubt as to why I cast many of those old-timers as "saints?" I hope not.

NEW RECORD FISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

NEW JERSEY A BOWFIN, 7 LB. 12 OZ. CAUGHT BY GLEN VAN OLDEN OF FAIRLAWN IN WAWAYANDA LAKE SET A NEW STATE RECORD FOR THIS RELIC SPECIES, TOPPING RONALD SMITH'S 5 LB. 9 OZ. FISH TAKEN IN MANTUA CREEK.

A 5½ LB. CARP CAUGHT IN PASCACK CREEK, RIVERDALE, BY FLY FISHING JAMES CALTABELLATTA IS A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES ON A 4 LB. TIPPET.



NEW ENGLAND A 3 LB. 15 OZ. CODFISH CAUGHT BY JOSEPHINE R. LEMOS, QUINCY BAY, MASSACHUSETTS, IS A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES ON 4 LB. LINE.

A 9 LB. 12 OZ. BLACKFISH CAUGHT BY ALAN C. CAOLO, WEEKAPAUG, RHODE ISLAND WON A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES ON 4 LB. LINE.

LONG ISLAND A 32 LB. POLLOCK LANDED BY DIANE LYNNE MILLER OF AMITYVILLE SET THE FIRST WORLD RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES IN THE WOMEN'S 16 LB. LINE CATEGORY. DIANE WAS JIG FISHING IN BLOCK ISLAND SOUND OUT OF MONTAUK WHEN THE BIG POLLOCK STRUCK.

ANOTHER POLLOCK, 34 LB. 4 OZ. ALSO TAKEN FROM MONTAUK BY JOHN COTTER, JR. IS A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR 4 LB. LINE.

REPAIR AN IGLOO

by Ken Gerhardt

After dragging my 151 quart Igloo over party boat decks, docks and truck beds with a couple of hundred pounds of fish and ice in it, I noticed the bottom had worn through. Although the unit was still thermally efficient (kept ice for two days), it was beginning to smell from the cod gurry trapped between the foam insulation and the walls.

I priced out a replacement and did not like the number given me. After some thought and a little research I came up with a "good" repair which did not injure the foam insulation. One cannot use polyester, fiberglass resin to make the repair as it can "eat" or dissolve the insulation. However, epoxy is inert with the foam and forms a strong flexible bond.

The repair, of course, will vary with unit to unit, but the basic technique is the same for all. It consists of scuffing up the area to be repaired, coating with a 2-part epoxy glue and bed the fiberglass sheet or tape in epoxy. Now that we know what we're going to do, let's repair one.

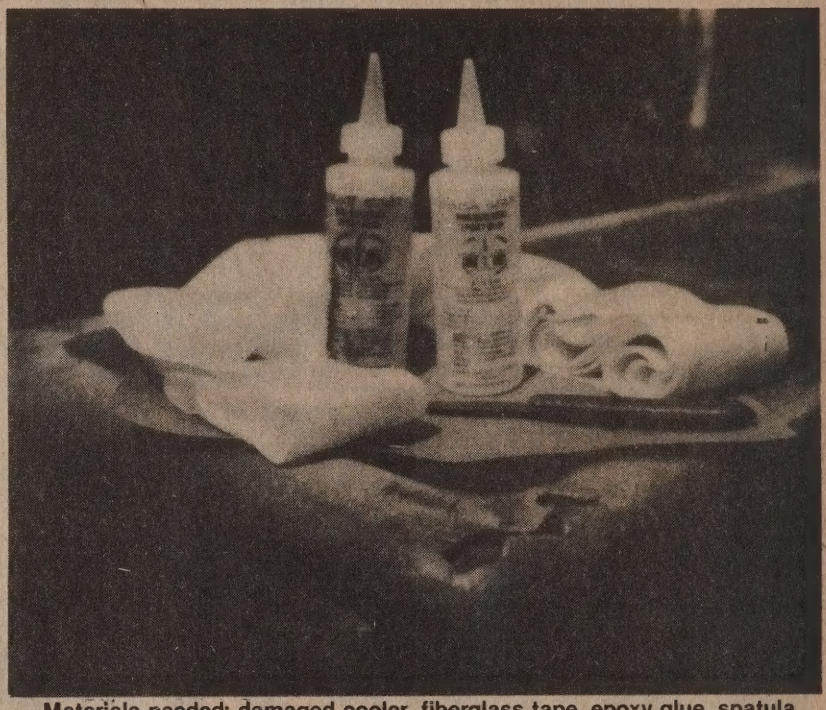
1. Scuff up area around the hole with 2/0 sandpaper. Make sure the entire area is well scratched.

2. Cut a piece of fiberglass to fit the holed area plus 1 to 2 inch overlap on all sides.

3. Mix up a small quantity of epoxy and spread thickly around the repair area.

4. Bed the fiberglass cloth in the epoxy immediately. Use a spatula or a kitchen knife as a trowler. Work it in well, saturating the cloth.

5. When dry, sand lightly to knock down any high spots or spikes and repeat steps 2 through 4.



Materials needed: damaged cooler, fiberglass tape, epoxy glue, spatula and sandpaper.

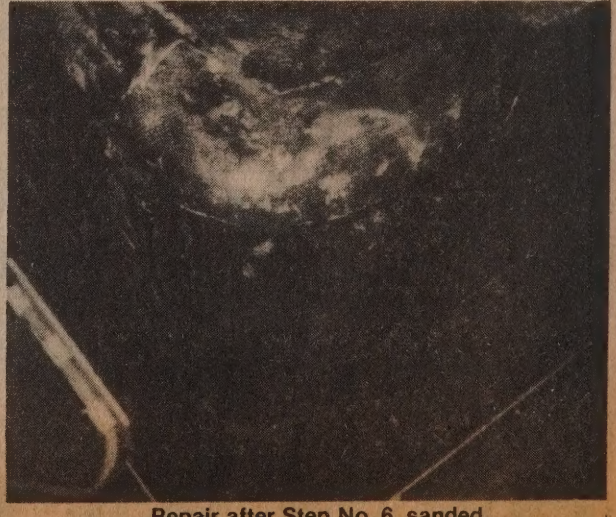
6. Coat repair with at least two more coats of epoxy.

On really bad corner repairs you may want to use three thicknesses of cloth or tape for additional strength. If the whole bottom is a mass of holes, etc., a sheet of mat can be epoxied in place making it virtually a new bottom.

I've repaired two of my own and two of my buddies' coolers using this method and the repairs have held up for two seasons now with no indication of wearing out. The cost for four repairs was under $10.

The epoxy I use is Flex Coat Epoxy **not** the rod wrap coating material. The fiberglass tape is available in local shops or Defender Industries in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Repair with epoxy still wet after Step No. 4.



Repair after Step No. 6, sanded.

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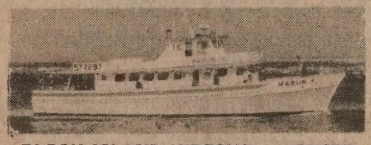

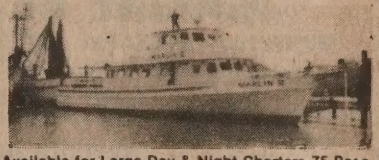

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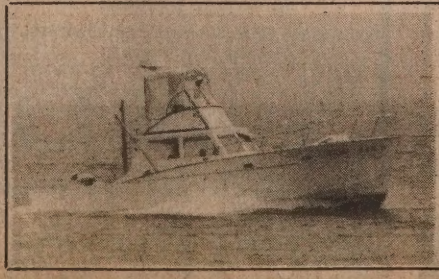

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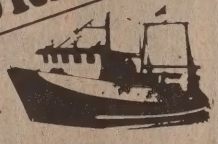

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East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Montauk waters continue to yield good cod catches when the weather permits humans to expose their skin to the frigid airs.

MONTAUK

From Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** we learn that Wednesday was the only day he got out (due to the frigid weather). Orin Dayton of Cold Spring Harbor took the pool with a 46 lb. lunker cod. Fourteen fares had over 135 cod, five of which were over 30 lbs. The fish averaged 6 to 12 lbs. and action was at CIA on hard bottom. Bigger fish seem to be moving in now, skipper says.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Codfish continue to be the only game in town with all of the action currently restricted to the larger open boats. No word at all on any activity from the Moriches area.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Captree's cod fleet had to contend with bitter cold, snow and ice this past week, but still managed to find fair numbers of cod for those anglers able to endure the punishing weather. Milder weather with temperatures up around the 40 degree mark are being forecast for this week and skippers are optimistic that they will be able to sail on a more regular basis.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty III** managed two days out of this past week. Overall scores ranged up to 80 cod with most falling into the 6 to 12 lb. range. Pool fish have ranged from the high teens into the mid-20 lb. class. Most of George's fishing has been in close proximity to offshore wrecks.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** said that heavy ice became a problem on a couple of

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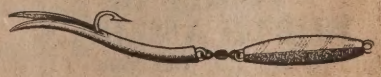

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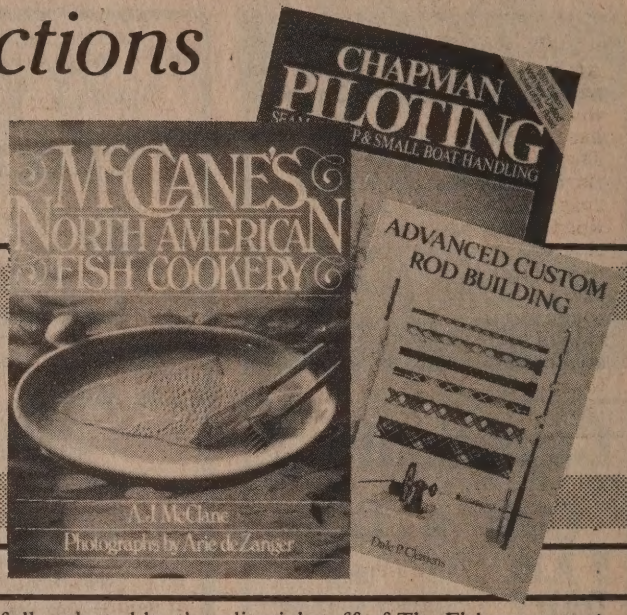

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by Gary Soucie

An essential handbook for the beginner and expert alike, covering every aspect of terminal tackle. The author shares his expertise in this often overlooked but critical phase of our sport with detailed explanations on the proper use of hooks, sinkers, snaps, swivels, floats, lines, leaders, lures and knots. Also included are chapters dealing with the latest advances in technology and fish behavior. Hook, Line and Sinker is the ultimate guide to selecting, buying, using and maintaining terminal tackle. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 418 pages. $22.50

McCLANE'S GUIDE TO SALT WATER FISHES OF NORTH AMERICA

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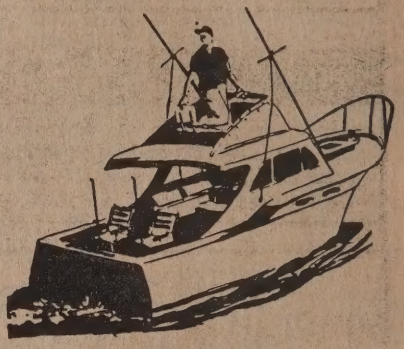
occasions this past week and hence the skipper chose to remain in port. Rising temperatures and a forecast for rain this week should eliminate any remaining ice. Captain Nick Manzari skippered Capt. Speedy Hubert's **Speedy VI** on Sunday with good results. Twenty-five fares accounted for 90 cod including a 35 lb. pool fish. According to Speedy, the boat did manage to get out four days this week with most trips producing 60 to 75 cod.



West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Cod remains the name of the game off the Island's south shore with decent catches reported on every trip. Frigid weather has kept sailings down, but on the days that the boats do get out with enough people, there are plenty of bulging burlap sacks on the trip home.

Aboard the **Starstream II** on Sunday, 12 customers accounted for 48 cod up to 30 lbs. The skipper considered this catch to be very good, considering all the cold. Fish averaged 10 to 15 lbs. and were caught on wrecks and around the edges of the wrecks.

Word from Capt. Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** was of continued good cod fishing. On Tuesday, Claude Tristain hoisted 7 cod to 20 lbs. On Friday's trip, Bayport angler Tucker Farrell bagged up with 15 cod up to 20 lbs. Dave Conroy and Mark Buckley of Hempstead teamed up to deck another 15 cod to 20 lbs. Charlie Hoops and Joe Hiller of Brooklyn on Saturday's trip had 14 cod, while Russ Lewis of Queens hoisted a 25½ lb. pool winner. Jim Powers of Westbury was satisfied with his 11 cod. On Sunday, Frank Rizzo of Wantagh managed 10 cod to 18 lbs. and Roosevelt Rogers of Westbury seemed satisfied with his 8 cod to 30 lbs. Again, this was all on wrecks and in their immediate environs.

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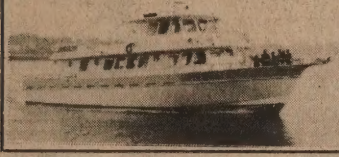

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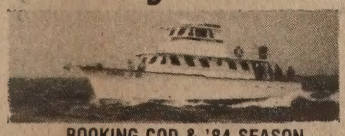

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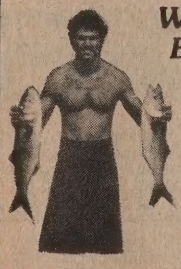

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ON THE MARKET: BAITCASTING REELS

(Continued from page 13.)

hands, but is rugged enough to use with even 20 lb. line—though you won't get much on it. The gear ratio is 4.1:1. A larger V-spool version with the same capacity but a 5:1 gear ratio is the BB-1LM.

RYOBI makes the Childre reels, and also has a similar tiny V-spool magnetic of their own in the V-Mag 3. Listed at a capacity of 120 yards of 10 lb., it weighs six ounces, has a 4.1:1 gear ratio, three oil-less bearings, one-piece die-cast frame, power handle, eight pick-up points, and selective anti-reverse which allows back reeling. It, too, can retail at around $30. The larger V-Mags have these features and 16 pick-up points for instant engagement. The larger V-Mag 40 (two ball bearings) and V-Mag 4 have the same V-spool capacity and a 5:1 gear ratio. The V-Mag 5 gets up to 10.1 ounces while holding 120 yards of 12 lb. It has a fast 5.3:1 gear ratio. Ironically, the top of the Ryobi line is still in the non-magnetic AD line. The three ball bearing AD5000V and large AD5500C (240 yards of 12 lb.) carry a three-year limited warranty as opposed to the one-year on other models.

QUICK has come in with five new Quick Cast baitcasters, two of which are magnetic. The 9.5 ounce Quick Ast Mag 660M holds 200 yards of 12 lb., while the 770M is an ounce heavier and takes over 200 yards of 16 lb. Both have 5:1 gear ratios, as do the three non-magnetic models. Two of the latter are the same size as the magnetics, while the 880C is the largest of the lot at 11 ounces with a capacity of 300 yards of 16 lb.

SHAKESPEARE dropped its largest baitcaster, the 2900-084, and is left with three non-magnetic Sigmas. The 2900-080 holds 200 yards of 15 lb. and has two stainless steel ball bearings, while the graphite bearing 2900-001 takes 150 yards of 12 lb. and the 2900-002 handles 135 yards of the same line. All have 5:1 gear ratios.

PENN has also held the line with their three non-magnetic Levelmatics. Particularly popular among saltwater anglers because of their rugged spools and low prices, the Levelmatics have 4:1 gear ratios and sealed stainless steel ball bearings. The 920 takes 175 yards of 12 lb. on its narrow spool, while the 930 (counterbalanced handle) and 940 (double knob power handle) hold 225 yards of 12 lb. on a wide gold-anodized spool.

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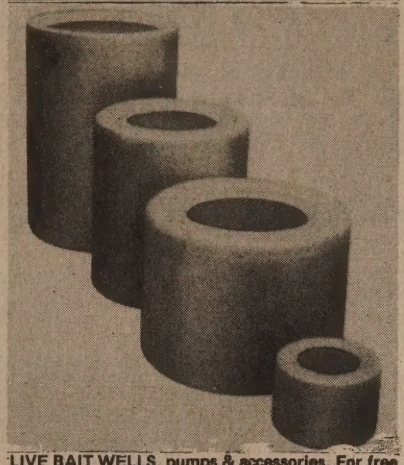

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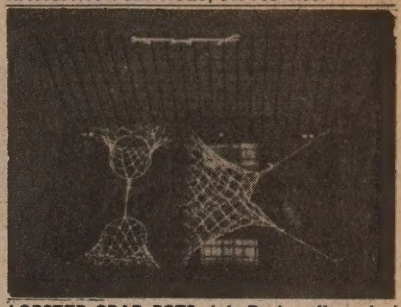

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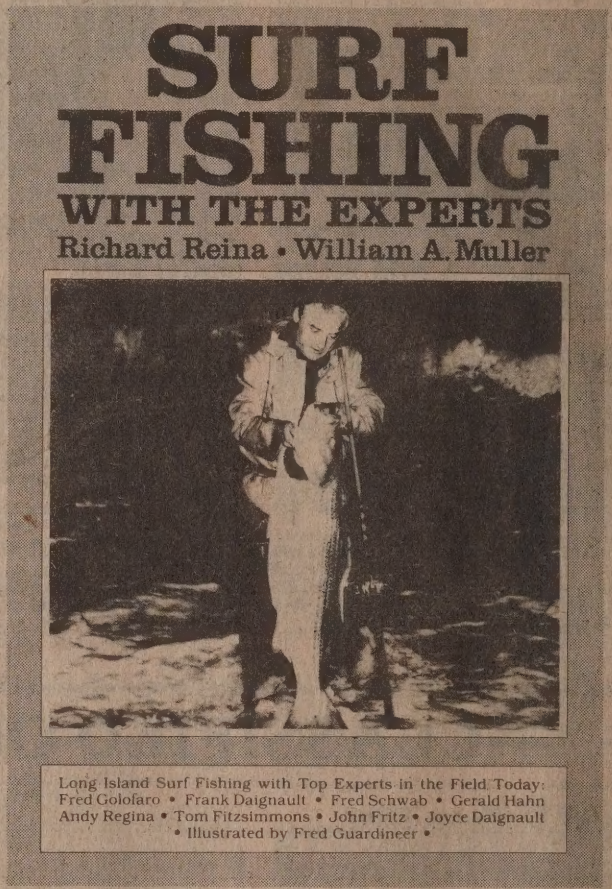
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